

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation "such that a plurality of aqueous compartments comprise a single species of analyte DNA molecule". Holliger taught encapsulating single cells in the aqueous compartments. As such, a single cell would comprise multiple species of DNA molecules. For example, eukaryotic cells comprise multiple chromosomes as well as mitochondrial DNA. Some prokaryotic cells (e.g. most bacteria) comprise a single chromosome and no mitochondria, so encapsulating single bacteria in the aqueous compartments might achieve a "single species of analyte DNA molecule". However, given that Holliger was discussing detection of tumor cells amongst a mixture of normal cells, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood Holliger to be discussing eukaryotic cells.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMUEL WOOLWINE whose telephone number is (571)272-1144. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on (571) 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Samuel Woolwine/
Primary Examiner